



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

November 19, 2007

Dr. Rex W. Cowdry
Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Item 2008-83-1

Dear Dr. Cowdry:

We are in receipt of your letter requesting an extension on the reporting deadline for the development of a plan for the continuum of mental health services in Maryland. We concur with your request to extend the deadline beyond the current November 1, 2007. However, in order to allow for adequate review, we would request that the report be submitted by December 1, 2008, rather than December 31, 2008, as you suggested.

In approving the extension request, the budget committees also authorize the release of funds, effective October 30, 2007, to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of the Secretary under Item 2008-83-1 in the amount of \$100,000 in general funds. However, given the importance of this matter to the State's health infrastructure, the committees may adopt language in the fiscal 2009 budget bill withholding a similar amount until the plan is submitted.

Sincerely,

Ulysses Currie, Chairman
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Norman H. Conway, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations

UC:NHC/SGP/kjl

cc: Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer
Senator Rona E. Kramer
Delegate James E. Proctor, Jr.
Delegate Mary-Dulany James
Secretary T. Eloise Foster
Secretary John M. Colmers
Dr. Brian Hepburn

Mr. Karl S. Aro
Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux

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